

**Table 1 Effect of birth of a child with beta-thalassaemia major on the total number of children in each family**

Parameter	No. of children with beta-thalassaemia major (dead or alive)			
	1	2	3	4
Number of families	107	35	10	2
Mean (SD) number of children <sup>a</sup>	3.69 (2.01)	5.86 (2.00)	5.20 (1.55)	7.50 (2.12)

<sup>a</sup>Means were significantly different ( $P < 0.001$ ; Kruskal-Wallis 1-way ANOVA).

SD = standard deviation.